

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 33 and 35 are amended, and claims 1-32, 34, 36, and 37 are or were previously canceled. In addition, claims 38-40 are added. Claims 33, 35, and 38-40 are now pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended.

Applicants note that claim 35 was not amended for reasons of patentability but rather was amended to be consistent with claim 33.

Claims 33-35 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of US Published Patent Application 2002/0145437 to Sporck et al. and US Patent No. 5,875,198 to Satoh. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 33 is directed to a "probe card assembly" that includes both "a serial digital to analog converter" and "a parallel analog to digital converter." As recited in claim 33, the serial digital to analog converter converts serial data from a test system controller to parallel, which can then be provided as test signals to electronic devices under test. The parallel analog to digital converter converts parallel data from the electronic devices under test into serial, which can then be provided to the test system controller. In rejecting claim 33, the PTO relied on Satoh rather than Sporck to meet recitations in claim 33 regarding serial/parallel conversion. Satoh does not, however, teach or suggest a parallel analog to digital converter that operates on parallel signals output by Satoh's DUT. (See, e.g., Satoh Figure 6.) Satoh thus lacks at least "a parallel analog to digital converter" recited in claim 33. For at least this reason, claim 33 is patentable over Sporck and Satoh.

Claim 35 as well as new claims 38-40 depend from claim 33 and, at least because of that dependency, are also patentable over Sporck and Satoh. Moreover, Applicants assert that claims 35 and 38-40 recite additional features that further render those claims patentable over the combination of Sporck and Satoh.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If at any time the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5934.

Respectfully submitted,

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